

REMARKS

General Remarks

Claims 1-28 and 44-71 are pending in the application. Claims 29-43 and 72-87 were previously cancelled. Claims 26-28 and 69-71 are cancelled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-25 and 44-68 are unchanged. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims Rejections

Claims 26-28 and 69-71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement because the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Claims 26-27 and 69-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kaminsky et al. (WO 00/11454) and Colvin (US 5,970,167). Claims 28 and 71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kaminsky et al. (WO 00/11454), Colvin (US 5,970,167) and Bishop (US 6,603,877). Claims 26-28 and 69-71 have been cancelled.

The allowability of claims 1-25 and 44-68 is noted with appreciation. As noted above, Claims 26-28 and 69-71 are cancelled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer thus obviating the rejection of these claims.

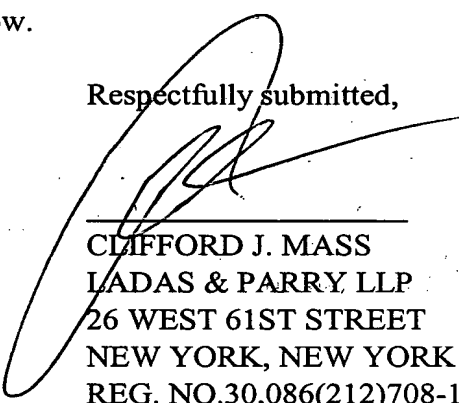
In view of the foregoing, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Conclusion and Request for Interview

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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